

Sports

Aviation unit dominates Hunter Classic

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
CAB public affairs

Hunter Army Airfield company level teams squared off against each other in the Hunter Army Airfield Basketball Classic, which culminated in the championship game Feb. 26.

As expected the two teams that dominated the season, Companies A and B of 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, met in the final match to decide the champion.

Both teams were set to advance to the Fort Stewart Basketball Classic in late March regardless of the outcome of the Hunter championship.

The “Killer Bees,” of Co B., won 12 games and lost 1, while Co. A. went undefeated. That lone loss for the “Killer Bees” was handed to them by Co. A earlier in the season in an overtime thriller decided by a foul shot.

That regular season contest was about the only game to test the Co A ballers who largely dominated their opponents.

The Hunter Classic was no different as Co. A sailed through the competition, beating teams handily by combining athleticism and teamwork.

“That’s the key with this team,” said Michael Hughes, athletic director for Hunter Army Airfield. “They work well as a team.”

The Classic was a double elimination tournament which meant that even if a team lost they had a chance to come

back and win the whole thing. That’s exactly what Co. B was betting on after having lost to Company E, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation earlier in the Classic.

After that loss the “Killer Bees” made it through the losers’ bracket, playing Co. E 1/3 Avn. again Feb. 26 for the right to face Co. A in the championship game that same night. The “Killer Bees” won the game 47-36, and after a short rest headed out onto the court to play for the championship against the fresh and rested Co. A.

Rather than look tired the “Killer Bees” looked warmed up and energetic after dispatching Co. E 1/3 Avn.

“They were loose,” said Antonio Henry, Co. A. “Their first game was like a warm up game while we were stiff.”

The first half of the game was a give and take as the “Killer Bees” defense swarmed the court, frustrating the usually high scoring Co A.

“The significance of this game is that Alpha is undefeated and this is the first time they’ve felt pressure (since the regular season game between the two companies),” said Hughes. “Now we see how they handle the pressure.”

Even with the “Killer Bees” defense in high gear Co. A was up by 10 points by the end of the first half.

The second half of the game started as a struggle again as the “Killer Bees” surged back to come within 4 points of the lead.

See CLASSIC————— **Page 2C**



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Derek Porter, number 31, A Co. 603rd ASB, skies with the ball. A Co. went on to win the game 65-57.



Officially open for business. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Acting Area Engineer Douglas Saxon; Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Carl Coffman; Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Col. Todd Buchs; Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Linda Heifferon and Directorate of Public Works Senior Environmental Engineer Thomas Fry cut the ribbon marking the grand opening of the Hunter Fitness Center Feb. 28.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Above: Lt. Col. Carl Coffman, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, awards the 1st place trophy to the A Co. 603rd ASB basketball team. A Co. capped off a perfect season with a win in the championship game against B Co. 603rd ASB.

Right: Tyshone Overton, A Co. 603rd ASB

Graphic by Pat Young

CLASSIC

From Page 1C

Company A kept fighting them off, controlling the ball and hanging onto the lead to finally win the game and the championship 65-57.

"It was a hard game tonight," said Larry Hailes, Co A. "This team put up a good fight. But that's our team, we go out and give it our best."

The win brought Co. A to 17-0, the first time that's ever happened, said Hughes. Hailes said the Co. A team was hungry and ready to go to Fort Stewart to face the rest of the 3rd

Infantry Division.

"We're playing together as a team," said Henry. "We're playing unselfish. Everybody knows their roles. Everybody does their part."

Henry, who played college ball at South Eastern Louisiana in the early nineties, was just happy to have made it to the game, let alone win it.

"We came out of the field tonight after a week in the field," he said.

Henry said having the Classic at Hunter before the Fort Stewart championship was definitely a good thing. "It's fun, it's for bragging rights," he said. "We're all on the same team."

Intramural Basketball Standings

Southeastern Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
A Co 703d BSB	8	3	0.727
HHC 4/3 BSTB	5	4	0.555
15 ASOS	3	3	0.500
HHB 1/9 FA	3	3	0.500
D Co 3/7 Inf	4	4	0.500
E Co 26th BSB	2	2	0.500
E Co 1/64 AR	1	3	0.250

Liberty Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
1/30 Inf	5	0	1.000
HHC 2d BCT	6	1	0.857
B Co 4/64 AR	2	3	0.500
D Trp 3/7 Cav	2	4	0.333
F Co 26 BSB	2	4	0.333
B 1/9 FA	1	5	0.166
E Co 3/7 Inf	0	0	0.000

Freedom Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
A Co 3d BSB	7	1	0.875
135th QM Co	7	1	0.875
DET 2/3 SIG Co	7	2	0.777
G Co 703 BSB	7	2	0.777
HHC 3/7 Inf	4	3	0.571
A Btry 1/41 FA	4	4	0.500
D Co 703 BSB	3	6	0.333
B Co 2/3 BTB	2	4	0.333
HQ Co 1/306th Inf	2	4	0.333
HHC 1/64 AR	2	7	0.222
HHB 1/64 AR	2	7	0.222
HHC 26 BSB	0	4	0.000

Hunter AFF Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
A Co 603d ASB	10	0	1.000
B Co 603d ASB	12	1	0.923
DFAC	10	2	0.833
E Co 3/3 Avn	6	2	0.750
C Co 2/3 Avn	8	3	0.727
512 QM Co	7	3	0.700
Avn BDE	7	5	0.583
E Co 1/3 Avn	4	3	0.571
Corps of Eng	5	8	0.385
514 Eng	4	7	0.364
C Co 603 ASB	2	10	0.167
HHC 160 SOAR	3	15	0.167
202 QM Co	0	13	0.000

Bucknell brings down Army: 68-47

GoArmySports.com

LEWISBURG, Pa. – Chris McNaughton scored a game-high 23 points and Bucknell used a 12-0 run in the second half to pull away from Army in a 68-47 victory, Sunday in the Patriot League semi-finals at Sojka Pavilion.

McNaughton, a 6-11 senior, set the school's record for games played in a career with 124, and shot 10 of 13 from the field as the Bison moved into the Patriot League finals for the third straight season.

Bucknell, now 22-8 and riding a 14-game winning streak, will play at Holy Cross Friday at 4:30 p.m. in the finals.

The game will be televised on ESPN2 as part of "Championship Week." Holy Cross, the No. 1 seed, beat American 55-53 in the other semifinal.

Army, the No. 6 seed, ends its season at 15-16, with the most wins in school history since the 1984-85 team won 16 contests.

Matt Brown scored 13 points in his final game in a Black Knights uniform while Jarell Brown added 17.

The Black Knights shot 44.4% in the first half but made just four of 19 shots in the final 20 minutes.

It was also the final game for Marshall Jackson, Cory Sinning and Jimmy Sewell.

Sinning had a bucket and Sewell a pair of blocks.

"Our seniors have just invested, invested, invested," Army head coach Jim Crews said. "We have always had what I consider a good program in terms of academics, following the rules, being gentlemen and being good leaders.

"These guys have climbed that mountain and we had a pretty good darn team this year," Crews continued. "There have been a lot of dark days where they have really persevered and never made excuses when it wasn't going well collectively or individually and I could never be prouder and I want to thank them for what they have done for Army basketball."

Army trailed by eight at halftime

but cut the deficit to five when Cleveland Richard hit a three and a free throw and Brown made two free throws to make it 43-38 with 16:27 left in the game.

The Bison, the No. 2 seed, responded with a 12-0 run over the next seven minutes to take a 57-38 lead with nine minutes left in the game.

From there, the Bison cruised and improved to 1-5 against Army in the playoffs.

Bucknell took an eight-point lead at halftime, thanks in large part to McNaughton, who scored 14 points in the first 20 minutes.

Bell, who had 13 points in the first half, got Army off to a great start, scoring the teams first six points and giving Army an early 6-4 lead.

The Black Knights answered McNaughton's baskets with scores from Bell and Brown, who also had 13 in the first half.

"I thought our guys did a good job in the first half of playing off each other and going to the inside and the outside," Crews said. "And we had some good opportunities that we did not quite finish. We missed some open shots and layups. We executed, we just didn't get it done."

Bell hit a three with 4:54 left with a defender in his face to put Army ahead 29-28.

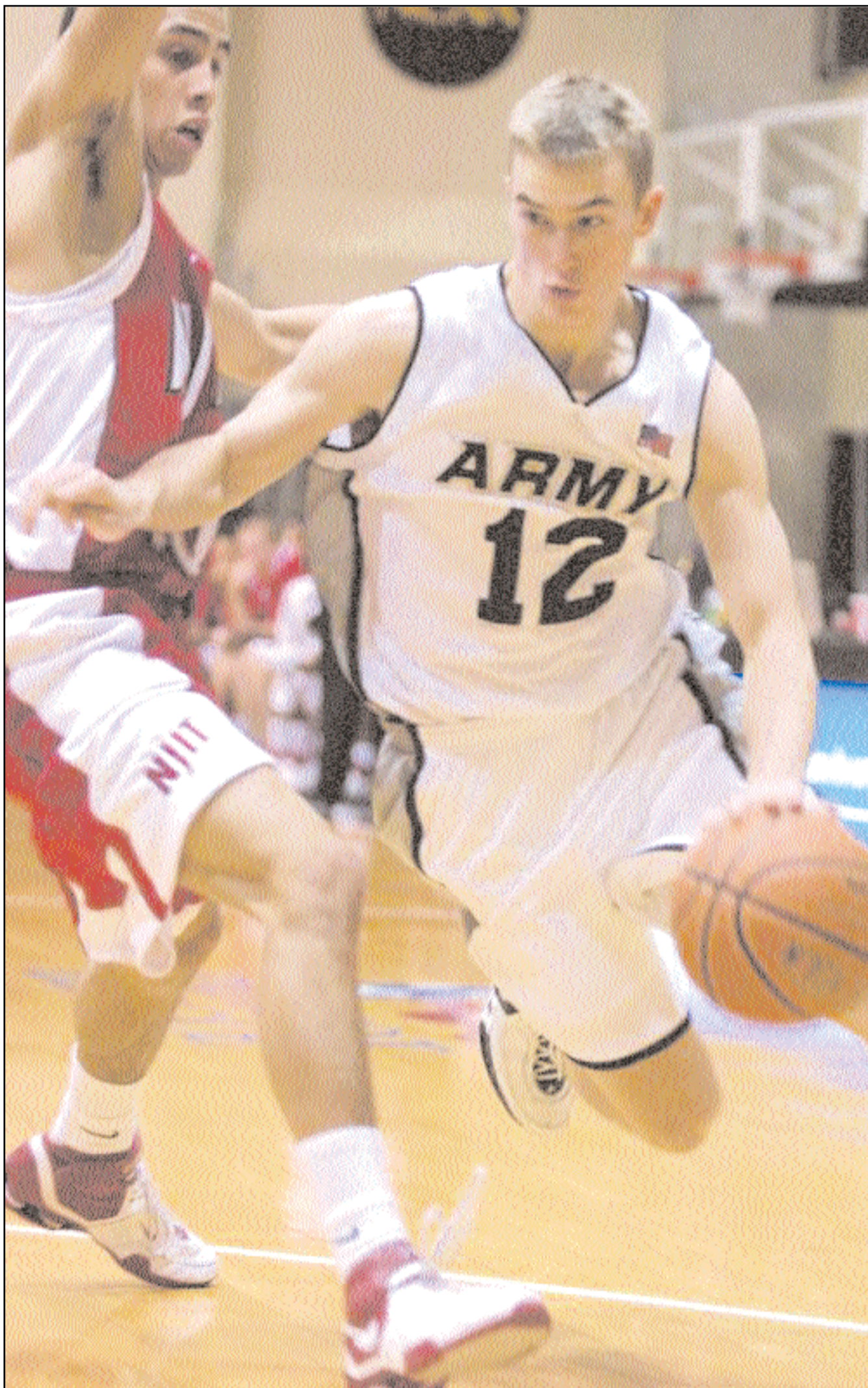
The Bison, though, ended the half with an 11-4 run and a 40-32 lead at halftime.

Richards cut into the deficit early in the second half when he drained a three-pointer for his first points of the game. He followed two minutes later with a free throw.

Donald Brown, who finished with 15 points in his second game back after missing seven contests with an injury, made a three-point play to keep the lead at seven.

Brown then made both free throws to make it 43-38. Brown scored on a tip in,

McNaughton scored four points, John Griffin drained a three and Stephen Tyree had a steal and dunk to increase the advantage to double digits as Bucknell won going away.



Courtesy Photo

Matt Bell

Army blasts UNC Greensboro 9-1



Cole White

www.goarmysports.com

GREENSBORO, N.C. – Cole White and Caleb Love registered four hits each and Drew Clothier did not allow an earned run over seven strong innings of work as Army snapped a three-game losing streak with a 9-1 defeat of UNC Greensboro, Sunday afternoon at UNCG Stadium.

In salvaging the final game of the three-game weekend set, Army rapped out a season-high 14 hits.

“Very proud of the way the young men played today,” said Army head coach Joe Sottolano. “They showed some toughness losing first two games, coming back and playing a good ball game today. The tone was set by Drew Clothier, who once again threw a solid game against a very good offensive team. He’s been very consistent for us so far this season.

“It was great to see the offense come

together,” added Sottolano. “We scored seven runs with two outs today and got several clutch two-out hits. I’m very impressed by the leadership and consistency of Cole White’s play, both offensively and on the mound. I’m looking forward to this win jump-starting the season.”

The Black Knights (3-6) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the third inning when Love doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Milan Dinga.

Army stretched its lead to 5-0 in the fourth inning, bunching together a leadoff triple by White and RBI singles by Love, Tony Capozzi and Barnes Connell. Run-scoring singles by Andy Mena, Capozzi and Love stretched the Black Knights’ cushion to 8-0 in the top of the fifth.

UNC Greensboro (5-5) scored its only run the bottom of the inning off Clothier when Tim Carrier singled with two outs, advanced

to second on a fielding error by White and scored on a single by Greg Feltes.

The Black Knights (3-6) got the run right back in the sixth when White launched his second triple of the game and scored on a balk.

Clothier (1-0) was outstanding in his strongest career outing, yielding eight hits and one unearned run. He struck out five and walked two. He was relieved by White, who closed out the victory by firing two shutout innings. He allowed two hits, struck out two and walked one.

Alex Shelton (0-1) suffered the loss for the Spartans, surrendering five runs on six hits.

White went 4-for-5 with a double and two triples, while Love finished 4-for-6 with a double, two runs scored, two runs batted in and a pair of stolen bases. Capozzi added two hits with one run scored and two runs batted in for the Black Knights.

Bradwell’s home debut

Jimmy Currier
Coastal Courier Sports editor

Junior Josh Magaw belted a three-run homer over the centerfield fence to give the Tigers a 3-2 lead in the third inning, but Savannah Christian stormed back with 11 runs to spoil the Tigers’ 2007 home opener.

An estimated 300 fans watched the Tigers open the season.

Despite the loss, Bradwell athletic director Jim Walsh Jr. is optimistic about this season’s baseball team

“The front end of the schedule is pretty competitive,” Walsh said. “They’re playing Wayne, which is a state play-off team, and Savannah Christian, who is a state playoff team, and they’re giving themselves a chance.”

“They’re playing pretty good baseball. They definitely are playing a lot better than how we finished last year,” Walsh said. “I think by the time we get to region play, we will be pretty competitive in our region.”

Region 3-AAAAA play starts March 14 against Camden County. Eight teams compose the region.



Jimmy Currier

Bradwell Institute’s Steven Dill winds and delivers a pitch in the Tigers’ home-opener on Saturday. Savannah Christian spoiled the home debut with a 13-3 win.